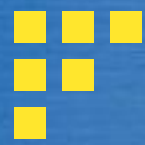


# Recycling & Economic Development

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Neil Seldman  
Institute for Local Self-Reliance

presented at  
**Iowa Recycling Association**  
Waterloo, Iowa  
October 6, 2009



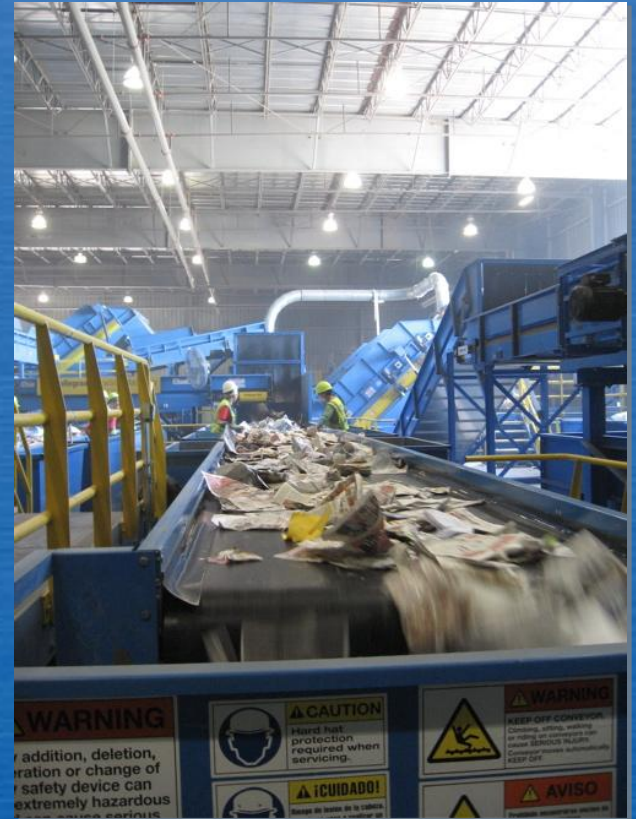
# Outline

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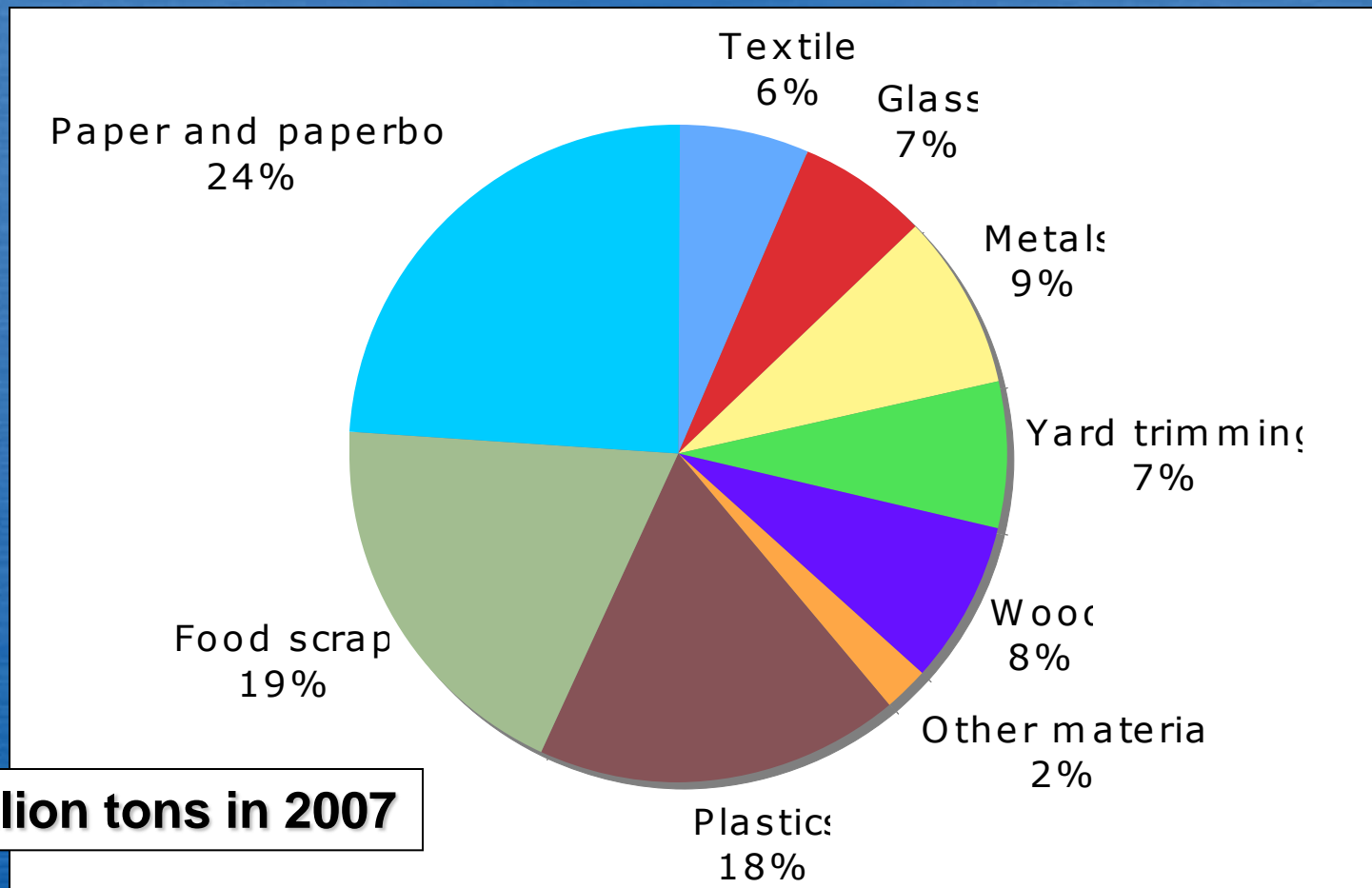
- National trends
- Localism
- Composting for high diversion
- Jobs and markets
- Institutional framework
- What's next for Iowa?
- GrassRoots Recycling Network
- Community organizing



# Single-Stream Vs. Localism



# U.S. municipal waste disposed



**169.2 million tons in 2007**



# Composting = Local

- Organics do not ship well
- Composting is small-scale
- Compost products are used locally
- Jobs are local
- Dollars circulate within local economies
- Local = good for local economies



# Organics Diversion: Core Climate & Soil Protection Strategy

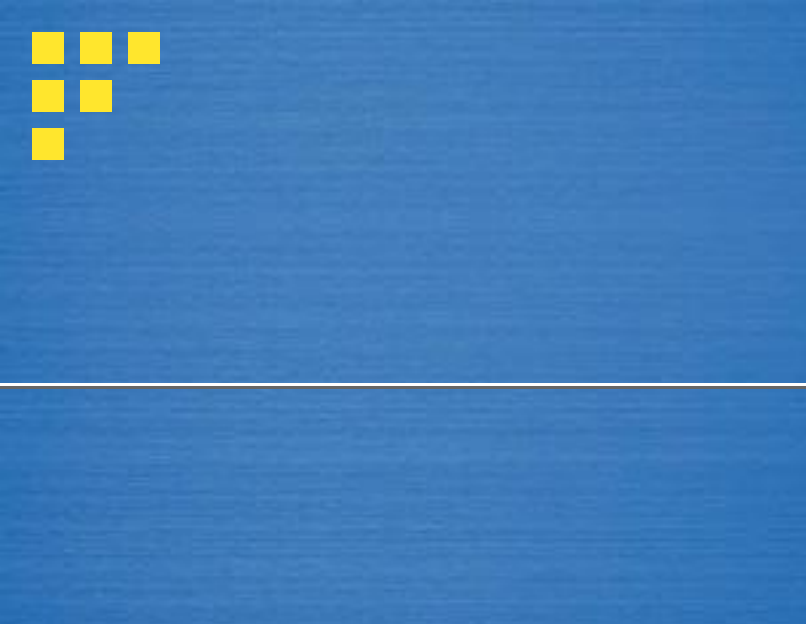


- Prevents landfill methane emissions
- Stores carbon
- Improves soil's ability to store carbon
- Substitutes for energy-intensive fertilizers, pesticides, fungicides
- Improves plant growth, and thus carbon sequestration
- Reduces energy use for irrigation
- Anaerobic digestion offsets fossil fuel consumption



# Composting, lots of models







# Norcal's Jepsen Prairie Organics Regional Composting Facility



Courtesy of City of San Francisco

# Jepson Prairie compost site





# Job Creation: Reclamation vs. Disposal

Type of Operation	Jobs/ 10,000 TPY
Computer Reuse	296
Textile Reclamation	85
Misc. Durables Reuse	62
Wooden Pallet Repair	28
Recycling-Based Manufacturers	25
Conventional MRFs	10
Composting	4
Disposal Facilities	1



MRF = materials recovery facility  
TPY = tons per year

Institute for Local Self-Reliance



# Institutional Framework

- Landfill bans
- Recycling goals and requirements
- Beverage container deposits
- Product bans
- Recycled-content laws
- Creative funding mechanisms
- Buy recycled programs
- Pay-as-you-throw trash fees
- Recycling Market Development Zones
- Disposal surcharges



# Unit-based Pricing Sends a Clear Message

Worcester, MA  
Population 173,000



San Francisco, CA  
Population 775,000

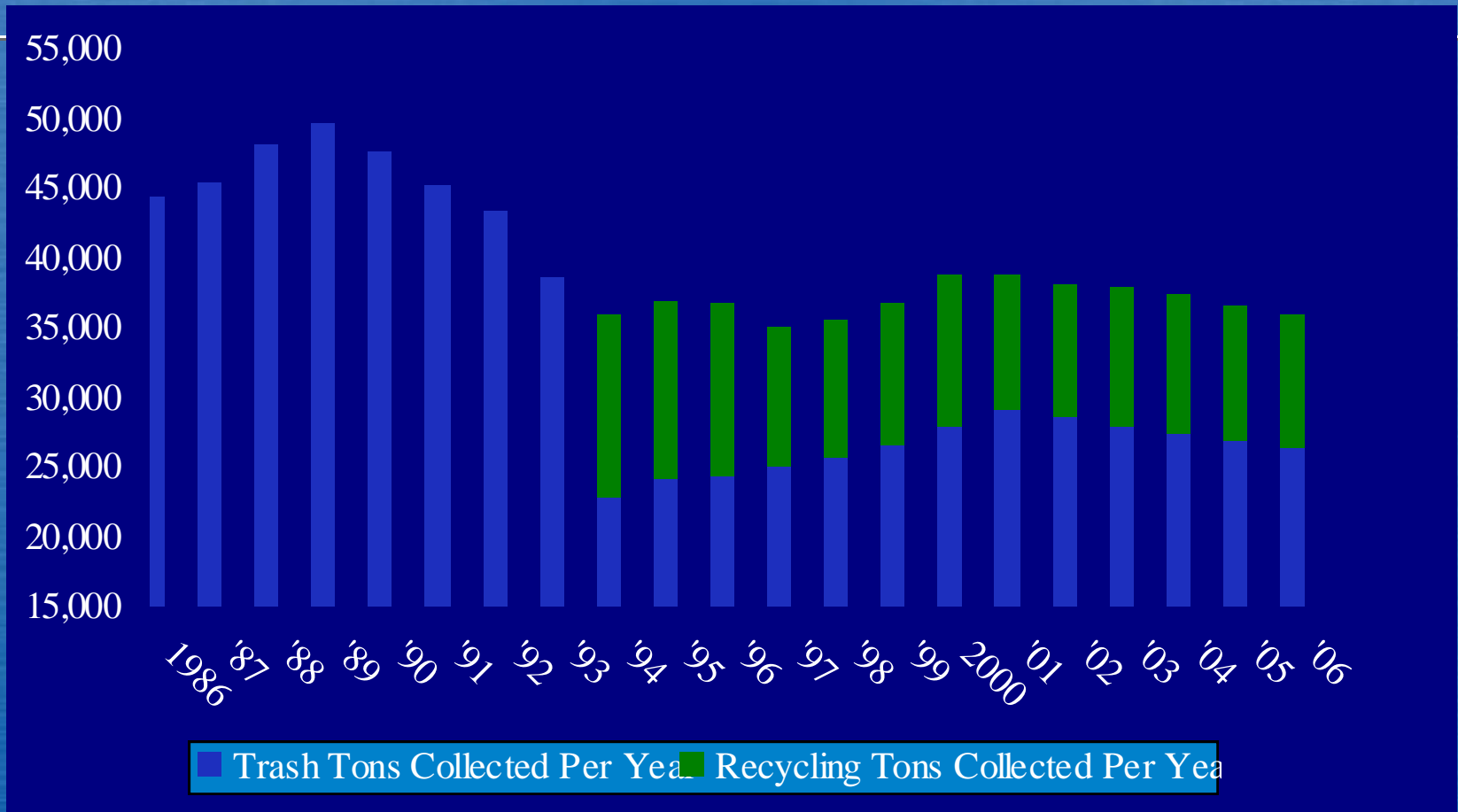


Unit based pricing is just a different way of paying for waste

Source: Kristen Brown, Green Waste Solutions, [www.thewastesolution.com](http://www.thewastesolution.com)



# Worcester, MA: PAYT Results



Source: Kristen Brown, Green Waste Solutions, [www.thewastesolution.com](http://www.thewastesolution.com)



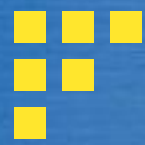
# Why not incinerate?



J. Miles Carey/Knoxville News Sentinel

- Costs are high
- Capital intensive vs labor intensive
- Requires waste
- Pollutes
- Generates ash
- Regulations inadequate
- Inflexible technology
- Obstacle to reducing waste
- Bad for the climate

“Coal Ash Spill Revives Issue of Its Hazards,” NY Times, 12/24/08



# What's Next for Iowa?

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- Citizen Organizing
- Other Strategies
- Sustainable Dubuque

# GrassRoots Recycling Network

GrassRoots Recycling Network

<http://www.grrn.org/conference2009/index.php>



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GRRN & our friends in New England will bring you the cutting edge in municipal recycling, zero waste, producer responsibility, as well as the latest on the Recycling/Zero Waste/Climate Change connection. It will be interesting and inspiring, with useful new tools

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about this conference!**

\* required

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